Statement

Comparative Achievement of Targets during 1998-99, target set for 1999-2000 and Progress made so far

	1998-99		1999-2000	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (1.4.1999 to 29.2.2000)
All India	1385	1450	2000	1080
UP (West)	84	77	100	41
UP (East)	201	202	327	116

Construction of a New Building at New Tehri by Deptt. of Communications

†2007. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tehri Nagar is likely to be submerged due to Tehri Dam (U.P.) and due to this fact Department of Communications has made a proposal for constructing a building on the land available at New Tehri;

(b) if so, by when this work is likely to be begin and completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. It is known through informal sources that Tehri Nagar comes under submerged zone due to construction of Tehri Dam, Department has already taken procautionary measures by constructing a Telephone Exchange building at New Tehri Town.

(b) The construction work of the telephone exchange building has already been completed in April 1999.

(c) Not applicable.

Revenue Loss to DoT

2008. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has estimated a revenue loss of nearly Rupees 3000 crores during the current financial year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such huge losses;

(c) whether Government would take steps to check such losses suffered by DoT without sharing any burden on common beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Available data indicate a down trend in revenue receipts due to new tariffs which came into effect from 1.5.1999 based on the Tariff order of March 99 of TRAI.

(c) and (d) In order to insulate the common man from the increase in tariff DoT in its alternative tariff package has not increased any rental and call charges for rural and low calling urban subscribers (those making calls up to 200 per month). Government has requested TRAI to re-work the tariff for 2000-2001 in view of anticipated substantial drop in DoT's revenue. Despite the door in revenue DoT's targets are being maintained and the gap covered by increased market borrowings.

Accountability of TRAI

2009. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "New Panel to Iron out Telecom, Disputes, PM" published in the Statesman dated 21 st November, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of panel with its proposed composition and specific terms or reference;

(c) whether the PM is aware of the profligacy in the financial conduct of the TRAI adversely commented upon by the CAG; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the proposed panel will address the question of the accountability of the TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had constituted on 13.12.99 a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The terms of reference of this Group, *inter alia,* included consideration and making recommendations to strengthen the TRAI through suitable legislative amendments, to prepare the draft of a new comprehensive statute to replace the